

Cancel claims 15 and 16.

17 (Amended). The shears of claim 14 in which each grip further comprises an inner surface positioned so that the viscous medium is located between the inner and outer surfaces.

18 (Amended). The shears of claim 14 in which the viscous medium is a putty.

20 (Amended). The shears of claim 14 in which the viscous medium is a room-temperature curable substance.

21 (Amended). The shears of claim 17 in which each deformable grip further comprises radially oriented webs that connect the inner and outer surfaces and that define chambers which contain the viscous medium, wherein each web contains at least one vent.

24 (Twice Amended). The shears of claim 14 wherein each grip comprises a groove that receives at least a portion of the inner diameter into itself, the groove being formed by folding the grip in on itself.

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Claim 11 has been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-10 and 12-13 have been cancelled. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of claims 1-13 in continuing/divisional applications. Claims 14-24 are rejected. Claims 15 and 16 have been cancelled, the substance of those claims being incorporated into claim 14. As a result, claims 17, 18, 20 and 21 have been amended to change their dependency and for clarity in light of the changes to claim 14. The dependency of claim 24 has been changed because it was incorrect as originally filed.

Anticipation of Claims 1-2 and 12-15 by Tindall (US 970,406)